

VIII.—*A Contribution to the Fauna of the River Tigris.* By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S., Assistant Keeper of the Zoological Department, British Museum.

[Plates VIII. & IX.]

DR. SHARPEY, F.R.S., has presented to the Trustees of the British Museum a collection of fishes made by his nephew, William Henry Colvill, Esq., at Bagdad. This collection was the more welcome as we have hitherto experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining zoological specimens from Mesopotamia, and as the examples sent were in an excellent state of preservation and of a fair size. On a close examination of its contents it proved to add considerably to our knowledge of the fishes of the Trigris, as will be seen from the following notes.

Perhaps the most interesting specimen of the collection is a beautiful example, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, of *Carcharias gangeticus* (M. & H.). It was previously known that this species enters freely the large rivers of India, and that it inhabits the fresh waters of Viti Levu. But it is a matter of surprise to find a shark in a river at such a distance from the sea, Bagdad being about 350 miles from the Persian Gulf in a straight line, and many more if all the windings of the river are taken into consideration. It would be a point of great interest to ascertain whether this fish spawns in the river (as it actually does in Viti Levu, where it inhabits a lake shut out from the sea by a cataract), or whether it descends to the sea for that purpose.

Of Acanthopterygians, there is only one adult example of the eel-shaped *Mastacembelus aleppensis* in the collection: it has thirty spines; and its coloration agrees with the figure given by Heckel.

Of Siluroids there are two species, both of which appear to be common in the Tigris. The first is the *Silurus triostegus* described and figured by Heckel; the second is an undescribed species of *Macrones*, with which I associate with great pleasure the name of its discoverer:—

Macrones Colvillii. Plate VIII.

Much more slender than *M. aleppensis*, to which it is closely allied.

D. 1/7. A. 12.

The height of the body is contained six and a half times in the total length (without caudal), the length of the head five

times. Snout rather depressed, not very broad, its length being two fifths of that of the head; the upper jaw is the longer. The nasal barbels extend to the hind margin of the eye, those of the maxillaries to the origin of the adipose fin. Dorsal spine rather strong, serrated behind, *and nearly as long as the head*. The adipose fin is about twice as long as the dorsal, and *commences at a distance from it which is about equal to the length of the dorsal*. Caudal fin forked, with the lobes rounded, the upper being the longer. Pectoral spine nearly as long and strong as that of the dorsal fin, very strongly serrated interiorly. The ventral fin is inserted immediately behind the last dorsal ray, and terminates at a considerable distance from the anal fin. Olivaceous, with three narrow, white, parallel, longitudinal stripes, one along, one above, and one below the lateral line.

This species does not appear to be scarce. The specimens sent are 9 inches long. Vernacular name "Abu Zumare."

The remaining specimens belong to the family of *Cyprinidae*, and to the following species:—

1. *Aspius vorax*, Heck.
2. *Capoëta trutta*, Heck.
3. *Barynotus luteus*. Of this species there was only one example in the collection; it seems to occur in the Orontes, throughout Mesopotamia and Persia. Since I have had the opportunity of examining specimens collected by the Marquis Doria at Shiraz, I have convinced myself that it should be removed from the genus *Barbus* (or *Systemus*), to which Heckel had referred it, and placed in *Barynotus*.
4. *Barbus subquincunciatus*, Gthr. When I described this species in 1868 from a single skin in the British Museum without known locality, I suggested that it might have come from Mesopotamia. That this supposition is correct is proved by a single very fine example in Mr. Colvill's collection. It is readily recognized by the large black spots.
5. *Barbus scheich*, Heck. Appears to be common. The examples are the first I have seen; they vary considerably in the comparative length of the dorsal spine; and I have no longer any doubt that *Luciobarbus xanthopterus* of Heckel and *Luciobarbus mystaceus* of the same author are founded on individual variations of the same species.
6. *Barbus Kotschyi*, Heck., with which most probably *Barbus grypus* (Heck.) is identical.
7. The last species is undescribed; it likewise belongs to the genus *Barbus*, and can be readily distinguished from the

preceding by the absence of barbels and its large scales. Its characteristics are as follows:—

Barbus Sharpeyi. Plate IX.

D. 11–12. A. 8. L. lat. 30–31. L. transv. 4/5.

Barbels none. The osseous dorsal ray is rather strong, not serrated behind, and nearly as long as the head (without snout). There are two and a half longitudinal series of scales between the lateral line and the root of the ventral fin. Snout rather short and obtuse. The height of the body is rather more than one fourth of the total length (without caudal), the length of the head two ninths. Origin of the dorsal fin opposite to that of the ventrals. Caudal fin deeply forked. Pharyngeal teeth 5 | 3 | 2, stout, with rather obtuse crowns. Coloration uniform.

To judge from the number of specimens sent, this species appears to be common. The largest specimen is 13 inches long. Vernacular name “Aradah.”

IX.—*On the Skull and some other Bones of Loxomma Allmanni*. By D. EMBLETON, M.D., and THOMAS ATTHEY. With four Plates by WILLIAM DINNING.

[Plates IV.–VII.]

IN the ‘Annals,’ 1870, v. p. 374, appeared a paper by our late lamented friend Mr. Albany Hancock and Mr. Atthey, “On the Occurrence of *Loxomma Allmanni* in the Northumberland Coal-field.” In the same periodical, 1871, vii. p. 73, and in the ‘Nat. Hist. Trans. of Northumb. & Durh.’ vol. iv. pp. 201 (1871) and 390 (1872), they noticed and partially described another skull of *Loxomma* which had been met with in the same part of that coal-field by Mr. Atthey.

This specimen, being the most complete that has yet been found here or perhaps elsewhere, and wanting but little to make it perfect, demands a detailed description.

The skull has suffered strong compression almost directly downward, with an inclination from right to left.

The upper surface and right border are perfect; but the border of the left maxilla is deficient. The two halves of a lower jaw, right and left, and of the same size, were found near the skull, to which, as they fitted it, they most probably belonged. In addition to the skull and mandible, there were